



COUNTER IMPROVISED THREATS GRAND CHALLENGE

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the goal of the Counter Improvised Threats Grand Challenge?

The goal of the Counter Improvised Threats Grand Challenge is to develop an open, flexible and adaptable system to defeat improvised threats without casualties. In order to meet this goal the approach of the Grand Challenge is to develop a wide range of options under multiple project streams.

Some projects may be transitioned to other parts of the Defence Innovation Pipeline through the course of the Grand Challenge, if appropriate. This may accelerate the development of key technologies or deployable capabilities.

How are the calls for applications structured?

A number of calls for applications will be made over the course of the Grand Challenge to deliver components of the final prototype system.

The Grand Challenge has been divided into two parts:

- Research and development of detection and defeat concepts, technologies and algorithms.
- The development of system architectures and hardware integration.

This initial call is confined to the first part of the Grand Challenge. Further calls for applications will be made as and when appropriate across the Grand Challenge timeframe.

Who can contribute?

Applications are welcome from Australian industry, academia and publicly funded research agencies.

Organisations are free to submit any number of applications.

Collaboration is encouraged, provided a lead agency is identified to manage project delivery.

A Defence Science and Technology (DST) Group collaborator is desirable but not mandatory.



How do Grand Challenge participants identify relevant expertise within DST?

One of the goals of the Next Generation Technologies Fund is to develop collaboration between DST and the Australian innovation community. Collaboration is not mandated for its own sake, but where there is real potential for mutual benefit to be derived from such collaboration, it will be encouraged and facilitated.

Where applicants do not already have existing contacts within DST, the Grand Challenge Program leads may recommend a DST collaborator if this would provide a meaningful contribution to the proposal.

DST experts that are contributing to a project could be seconded to or embedded with participants, where appropriate.

Are international partners allowed?

A main goal of the Next Generation Technologies Fund is the development of Australian capability. Therefore, applications are accepted from Australian (and New Zealand industry) parties only, though collaboration with international partners is considered appropriate in order to avoid duplication or to gain access to world leading capability.

Applications should disclose expenditure outside Australia that exceeds 20% and include justification.

What else do applicants need to include in their application?

An in-kind contribution is desirable. This may include salaries, equipment or intellectual property.

Examples of in-kind contributions might include:

- A university may contribute intellectual property that could be employed in detection algorithms, sensor fusion or determining response options (e.g. Artificial Intelligence)
- An industry may provide a mature sensor system as a contribution, but for which automatic target recognition algorithms are still required to be developed.



How will the two stage application and selection process be managed?

First stage applications will be accepted through the link provided and will be assessed against the selection criteria outlined in the Call for Applications.

Successful first stage applicants will be required to submit a second stage application providing more detailed plans and budget.

Successful first stage applicants will receive feedback from the Grand Challenge program leads regarding:

- Alignment with the goals of the Grand Challenge
- Collaboration opportunities (including DST)
- Budget guidance.

Unsuccessful first stage applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application, and provided with a summary of assessors' feedback upon request.

Have any proposals already been accepted?

This is the first Call for Applications for the Counter Improvised Threats Grand Challenge and no proposals have already been accepted for funding.

The Counter Improvised Threats Grand Challenge builds on existing counter improvised threat work that has been conducted by DST (in partnership with industry and academia). This work has helped to shape the Counter Improvised Threats Grand Challenge and has built confidence that the approach is sound. There is no commitment to continue this work at present, however the Grand Challenge would welcome applications from these groups.

How will project participants be engaged in the Grand Challenge?

Industry awardees will sign an agreement in line with the Defence Innovation Hub Intellectual Property Strategy.

Academic awardees will enter into a research or collaborative arrangement as outlined in the Defence Science Partnerships (DSP) deed. Universities which are not currently party to the DSP deed are welcome to sign up.

Successful applications will receive project funding for an agreed term for agreed deliverables and milestones. Funding will be paid as milestones are achieved.

How will the project be managed?

DST will lead the Counter Improvised Threats Grand Challenge and manage the Grand Challenge with participants in a collaborative way.

The lead for each project will manage delivery and reporting as specified in the contract or agreement.



Who owns the intellectual property created during the Counter Improvised Threats Grand Challenge?

Any contributed background Intellectual Property (IP) associated with each isolated component of the Grand Challenge will be retained by the respective participants. In the case where background IP is embedded in the foreground IP (i.e. where Defence requires use of background IP to exploit the foreground IP), Defence may require a licence from participants for Commonwealth purposes.

Defence does not seek to own IP derived from the Counter Improvised Threats Grand Challenge but there may be a requirement for joint IP to be vested in Defence for the period of the grand challenge. Where possible foreground IP will be licenced and assigned to appropriate parties during this period or as identified in the contracting phase. Foreground intellectual property that is collaboratively developed (e.g. hardware integration) will be assigned to the appropriate parties at the conclusion of the project. Defence will however require a Commonwealth purposes, non-commercial license as a minimum requirement.

Will the work be classified and are security clearances required?

Classification of work and the need for security clearance will be addressed on an individual project basis. Work may be structured or phased in ways that enable part of it to be conducted at an unclassified level.

Will project work be publishable?

A main goal of the Next Generation Technologies Fund is the development of a world leading innovation capability, therefore peer review and publication is desirable.

The project would need to consider the publication of work conducted under the project on a case-by-case basis with appropriate editing and approval by DST.